

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/MW
APPROVED BY S/AR:ELRICHARDSON
S/AR:GHALDRICH
D/LOS:ADBERLIND

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061453

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY

1. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON INVITED AMBASSADOR ABE, JAPANESE
UN PERM REP, TO BREAKFAST IN NEW YORK MARCH 8 TO DISCUSS THE
QUESTION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. ABE IS
ASIAN GROUP CHAIRMAN FOR MARCH.

2. RICHARDSON NOTED THAT LAST WEEK HE HAD TOLD KOH (ASIAN
GROUP CHAIRMAN FOR FEBRUARY) IN RESPONSE TO KOH'S REQUEST
FOR COMMENT THAT HE THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE FOR THE ASIAN
GROUP TO HAVE AN EARLY MEETING TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF THE
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PRESIDENCY IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. RICHARDSON
HAD SUGGESTED TO KOH THAT THE ASIANS MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER:
(1) WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANCE THAT SRI LANKA MIGHT KEEP
AMERASINGHE ON THEIR DELEGATION IN SOME NOMINAL CAPACITY
(THIS SEEMS TO US NOW TO BE ALMOST OUT OF THE QUESTION);
(2) IF AMERASINGHE WAS UNLIKELY TO BE CONTINUED ON THE DELE-
GATION, WHETHER THE ASIANS COULD AGREE ON A CANDIDATE OF

THEIR OWN AS A SUCCESSOR; AND (3) IF THEY COULD NOT DO SO, WHETHER THERE WAS A DELEGATE FROM ANOTHER GEOGRAPHICAL GROUP ON WHOM THEY COULD AGREE, E.G. NJENGA OF KENYA.

3. RICHARDSON REITERATED TO ABE THAT IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF THE ASIANS WERE TO MEET SOON, IN ANY CASE WELL BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE 7TH SESSION. THE MORE VARIABLE THE ASIAN GROUP COULD HELP TO QUANTIFY BEFORE MARCH 28 THE BETTER IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING PROTRACTED PROCEDURAL DELAYS IN THE CONFERENCE GETTING DOWN TO WORK. THE US WOULD SUPPORT ANY CANDIDATE ON WHOM THE ASIANS COULD UNITE.

4. RICHARDSON SAID WE HAD HEARD THAT THE ASIANS INTENDED TO MEET MARCH 7 AND 8, BUT ABE SAID NO DATE FOR A MEETING HAD YET BEEN SET. HE UNDERSTOOD THE URGENCY OF THE ASIANS CONSIDERING THE ISSUE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND WOULD MAKE SOME INFORMAL AND OFFICIAL SOUNDINGS IN ADVANCE OF A MEETING IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS CONVERSATION TO HIS AUTHORITIES IN TOKYO.

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